कार्यवाही किए जाने की अनुमति प्रदान कर दी है; और

(घ) यदि नहीं, तो उसके क्या कारण है?

वाणिज्य मंत्री (श्री रामकृष्ण हेगडे): (क) जी, हां।

(ख) जी, हां।

(ग) उत्तर प्रदेश शासन के आर्थिक अपराध संघ के अनुरोध के अनुसार, एमएमटीसी के पांच अधिकारियों के विरूद्ध कार्रवाई शुरू करने के लिए वाणिज्य मंत्रालय से प्रशासनिक अनुमोदन मांगा गया था। इनमें एक ऐसा अधिकारी भी शामिल है जो अब एमएमटीसी छोड़ चुका है। उत्तर प्रदेश शासन के आर्थिक उपराध स्कंध के अनुरोध-पत्र में जिन अधिकारियों के नाम दिए गए है, उन सभी के विरुद्ध कार्रवाई शुरू करने के लिए "अनापत्ति प्रमाणपत्र" दिया गया है।

(घ) प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

Negative Growth rate in Exports

5. SHRI GAYA SINGH:
SHRI S.M. KRISHNA:
MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE:
SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be please to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been 3 per cent negative growth recorded in Indian exports during first six months of 1998-99;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of export performance during the corresponding period in the last three years, year-wise;

(d) what immediate short-term measures his Ministry have taken or propose to take for increasing exports;

(e) whether there are some problems of payment in regard to exports to Russia and other CIS countries;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the efforts made by Government to solve these problems?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) As per the provisional data of DGCI&S exports registered a growth of 12.26% in rupee terms and a decline of 3.28 % in dollar terms during April-September, 1998-99.

(b) The exports were affected due to a general slow down in world trade and especially recession in many countries in South East Asia, Japan and Germany, domestic supply constraints in some sectors such as agricultural commodities and barriers in markets of European Union(EU).

(c) As per the provisional data of Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGCI&S) export performance during April-September, 1996-97, 97-98 and 98-99 in dollar terms and in rupee terms are given below:—

April-September	% growth (Us $ Mn)	% growth (Rs. Crores)
1996-97	9.91	21.91
1997-98	4.22	6.38
1998-99	-3.28	12.26

(d) A number of steps have been taken to promote exports which include lowering of interest rates on export credit, reduction in transaction cost through decentralisation and simplification of procedures and various other measures as enumerated in the Exim Policy. Steps have also been taken to promote exports through multilateral and bilateral initiatives, identification of thrust sectors and focus regions. A Cabinet Committee on Foreign Trade has also been set up to review the export performance.

(e) No specific representation regarding problems of payments in exports to Russia and other CIS countries has been received during the first six months of the year 1998-99.

(f) and (g) Do not arise.

Trade Concessions to SAARC Countries

6. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI AKHILESH DAS:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what specific trade concessions were offered and extended to SAARC countries following the Colombo Summit, including creation of a Free Trade Zone amongst the SAARC member countries;

(b) how far the imports from and exports to these countries have increased during the